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ABSTRACT

Across Ohio and the rest of the United States, some children are being educated at home by their parents instead of attending public or private schools. This movement is called home-schooling. Little is known about these home-schooled children and their use of public library resources to supplement and enrich their home-school education. This exploratory survey research project questioned parents of home-schooled children about their children's use of public library resources. The questionnaire was distributed at a statewide home-school convention attended by 2,100 persons, representing 1,175 families. Questionnaires were given one to a family, with a 10% non-probability accidental sample response rate (N=150). Results from the survey indicated that Ohio home-schooled children and their parents use public libraries frequently. Seven tables display the following information: (1) number of respondents answering the survey, by gender; (2) number of parents or non-parents of home-school children; (3) number of children being home-schooled; (4) use of prepared curriculum in home-schooling; (5) public libraries used as additional sources; (6) frequency in using public libraries; and (7) services used at the public library by home-schoolers. A copy of the questionnaire is appended. (9 figures) (MAB)

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OHIO HOME-SCHOOLED CHILDREN AND
THEIR USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY RESOURCES

A Master's Research Paper submitted to the
Kent State University School of Library and
Information Science in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree Master of Library
Science

by

Robin L. Schwartz

November 1, 1991

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Ohio Home-Schooled Children and Their Use of Public Library
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Across Ohio and the rest of the United States, some children are being educated at home by their parents instead of attending public or private schools. This movement is called home-schooling. Little is known about these home-schooled children and their use of public library resources to supplement and enrich their home-school education. This exploratory survey research project questioned parents of home-schooled children about their children's use of public library resources. The questionnaire was given to a group of approximately 2,100 Ohio home-school parents and educators at a statewide home-school convention, from which a 10% non-probability accidental sample response was obtained. Results from the survey indicated that Ohio home-schooled children and their parents use public libraries frequently.

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INTRODUCTION

Across the United States, a number of parents of school-age children are choosing to educate their children at home rather than sending the children to public or private schools. This movement is called home-schooling. Although actual numbers of children taught at home is unknown, Jane A. Avner, a doctoral student at the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh, cites various sources as estimating the numbers from 10,000 in 1983 to 260,000 in 1986.¹ Moreover, some leaders of home-schooling support groups estimate the number of home-schooled children at over one million.²

Actual numbers of home-schooled children are impossible to obtain for several reasons. First, laws regarding home-schooling differ greatly from state to state. Some are very liberal while others are very stringent. Many states, including Ohio, do not keep official statewide statistics on numbers of children educated at home. Second, some parents do not register their children in any school nor do they complete any paperwork to obtain approval from local school officials to educate their children at home.

Parents choose to home-school their children for a number of reasons. Some object to the religious, cultural or political values they find in public or private schools.

Others wish to spend additional time with their children before enrolling them in school. Still others feel that schools do not address the needs of their particular child. Another group of home-school advocates believes each child should have individualized instruction designed solely for him. Finally, some children live a significant distance from school and suitable transportation is a problem.³

Home-school parents use a variety of methods to teach their children. Many rely on prepared curricula available from a variety of home-school curriculum vendors. Some of the curricula are highly structured and use sequential worksheets. Others are less structured and allow for more freedom. Also, some home-school parents use no prepared curriculum at all.

According to Jane A. Avner, "today public libraries all over the United States are noting the presence of home-schoolers in their communities." In her article, "Home-Schoolers: A Forgotten Clientele?", in the July 1990 issue of School Library Journal, she quotes a Pennsylvania home-school mother.

The mother writes in a home-school newsletter,

My guess is that home-schoolers have made quite an impact [in public libraries], especially in the Children's Room. After all, several of us spend long periods there regularly...Our children are regulars -- and actively involved!⁴

In this same article, another home-school mother was asked if she used a formal, prepared curriculum. Her response was,

"The [public] library is our curriculum." Avner also states that positive comments about public library use are frequently found in the writings of parents and children involved in the home-school movement. She cites the example of a 9-year-old home-schooled girl in Pennsylvania who has conducted preschool story times at her local public library for the past three years. The girl, Jennifer Lerew, chooses books, finger plays and rhymes and uses a homemade "lap theater" made from a cardboard box to retell stories using simple puppets and storytelling props.

Avner also reports that public libraries in Washington state have provided home-schoolers with workshops on how to use the library, meeting rooms for support group meetings and information packets summarizing home-schooling laws, listing service ideas and containing useful booklists prepared by library staff members. Other libraries have offered home-schoolers more traditional library services such as storytelling sessions, summer reading programs and craft and film programs. Avner seems to feel that home-schooled children do use public libraries. In fact, she pointedly asserts,

The public library has a responsibility to all its patrons; home schoolers are no exception. The library should be aware of school district and state policies relating to education at home. They should welcome home schooling families and help them by stocking some of the books parents are likely to request, and by encouraging and reaching out to them.... Librarians who have served home schoolers find the experience to be especially rewarding, as they watch children pursue an interest with a passion, and see parents check

out armloads of books, videotapes and other media....We [librarians] can recognize and assist these families, and equally important, use this opportunity to further understand the learning process....

LITERATURE REVIEW

In-depth searching of Library Literature, LISA and ERIC databases on CD-ROM revealed only one article written about home-schoolers and their use of public libraries. The five page article written by Jane A. Avner, a doctoral student at the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh, is a brief, informative overview of the home-schooling movement. She has also gathered some reports of home-schoolers' use of public libraries through letters written by home-school parents and published in home-school newsletters and through interviews with home-school parents.

In addition, searches of the General Periodical Index and the National Newspaper Index uncovered only general articles about home-schooling. None of the over twenty-five articles checked contained any mention of the use of public libraries by home-school students or parents.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Jane A. Avner, a doctoral student at the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh, asserts in her short article in the July 1990 issue of School Library Journal that home-schooled children and their parents

use public libraries as a resource for their education and instruction. Avner's assertions are based on interviews with home-schooled children and their parents and articles in Pennsylvania home-school newsletters.

Is Avner correct in her assumptions? Do home-schooled children use public libraries as a resource? If so, how often do they use public libraries and what specific services offered by public libraries do they use? Also, what other services would home-schoolers want public libraries to provide for them?

METHODOLOGY

Introductory statement

An exploratory survey of Ohio home-school parents was conducted to determine the extent to which home-schooled students and their parents use public library resources.

Sample

Since the Ohio State Department of Education does not keep statewide statistics on the number of children in Ohio who are schooled at home, it is impossible to determine the exact number of children in this population. Moreover, while a researcher can sometimes obtain numbers of children home-schooled per local, city or exempted village Ohio school district by directly contacting individual districts, the names and addresses of these children cannot be obtained due

to privacy laws. The only way to contact members of this population is by word-of-mouth or through local and statewide home-school support groups.

Therefore, consent was secured from the Board of Directors of the Christian Home Educators of Ohio, a statewide home-school support organization, to distribute a questionnaire at the organization's June 1991 convention. The convention was held June 22 - 23, 1991 at the Ohio Union and Mershon Auditorium at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. A staff member of the Christian Home Educators office in Uniontown, Ohio, estimated the 1991 convention attendance at 2,100 persons. Of this number, 1,175 were families. Only one copy of the questionnaire was distributed per family. Therefore, a 10% (N = 150 persons) non-probability accidental sample response was obtained using this method.

Questionnaire Development

A questionnaire using factual questions, opinion and attitude questions and questions about past and present behaviors was developed. The questionnaire was used to collect data for estimating the probable extent to which home-schooled children and their parents use public library resources. Since no research has been conducted in this area, previously used questionnaires were not available. Therefore, the researcher created a questionnaire. The questionnaire was examined by two professional children's librarians with public library experience and by two home-school parents. They examined the questionnaire and determined its face validity.

Procedures

This exploratory survey of Ohio home-school parents was conducted to determine the extent to which home-schooled children and their parents use public library resources. An Ohio home-school support organization, the Christian Home Educators of Ohio, holds an annual statewide convention in Columbus, Ohio during the third week of June. At the 1991 convention, the researcher set up a table near the registration area and distributed a questionnaire at random to convention participants. The convention attendees were politely encouraged to complete the questionnaire and were given instructions to either return the completed questionnaire to the table or were provided a self-addressed envelope to use if they wished to mail the survey later.

RESULTS

Of the total number of survey respondents, 14% were male and 86% were female.

Table 1. -- Respondents Answering the Survey, by Sex

	N	%
Male	20	14
Female	130	86
Total	150	100

91% were parents of home-schooled children and 9% were not parents of home-schooled children. The non-parent respondents listed themselves as being either students, grandparents, aunts or uncles, tutors or individuals seeking information about home-schooling but who were not presently actively involved with home-schooling.

Table 2. -- Parents and Non-parents of Home-Schooled Children

	N	%
Parent of Home-Schooled Child	136	91
Non-Parent of Home-Schooled Child	14	9
Total	150	100

Of the 138 respondents who were parents of home schooled children, 22% reported having 1 home-schooled child, 68% reported having 2 home-schooled children, 30% reported having 3 home-schooled children and 9% reported having 4 or 5 home-schooled children. No responses were recorded for more than 5 home-schooled children.

NOTE: The number of respondents in Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 differ slightly from the number reported in Table 2 for parents of home-schooled children. Some non-parents chose to give responses for these questions. The responses were included in the totals for Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Table 3. -- Number of Children Being Home Schooled

	N	%	
1	31	22	
2	68	49	Mean = 2.1
3	30	22	Median = 2
4-5	9	7	Mode = 3
>5	0	0	
Total	138	100	

78% of those responding to the survey used prepared curricula in educating their home-schooled children. Some chose to use prepared curricula in sequence, while other respondents reported picking and choosing what they felt was best or most appropriate for their children from the wide variety of curricula and workbooks available to home-schooler.

LIST OF CURRICULA USED BY HOME-SCHOOLERS

1) A Beka Correspondence School	25
2) A Beka Video School	4
3) Advanced Training Institute	0
4) American Christian Academy	1
5) American School	0
6) Associated Christian Schools	3
7) Calvert School	3
8) Christian Liberty Academy	6
9) Clonlara	0
10) Hewitt-Moore Child Development Center	6
11) Home Study International	0
12) International Institute	0
13) Living Heritage Academy	0
14) North Dakota Independent Study	0
15) Oak Meadow School	0
16) Our Lady of Victory	0
17) Quest Academy	0
18) Seton Home Study School	3
19) Summit Christian Academy	0
20) Sycamore Tree	0
21) University of Nebraska-Lincoln	0
22) Konos	33
23) Other (Please specify)	
A Beka (not correspondence or video)	30
Alpha and Omega	4
Barnell Loft	1
Bible Studies Devotions	1
Bob Jones University Press	50
Christ Center Curriculum	1

Classics from Helping Hand	1
Cornerstone Curriculum	2
God Creation and Me	9
Good Apple	1
Good Science	3
Key Curriculum	1
Kinder Music	1
Learning at home	2
Making Math Meaningful	3
Mortenson Mathematics	5
Miquon Math	3
Modern Curriculum Press	5
Play and Talk	5
Rod and Staff	10
Ruth Beechick	2
Saxon Math	13
Sing, Spell, Read and Write	9
Teach your child to write in 100 easy lessons	2
Weaver	6
Judah Bible Curriculum	1
Learning Language Arts Through Lit	1
Writing Strands	5
Accelerated Christian Education	1
Christian Light	2
C.L.A.S.S.	1
Dr. Paul Cates EFEA	2
Reading Strands	1
Open Court	1
Letterlands Phonics	2
Romaldo Spalding	1
The Writing Road to Reading	3
Christian Schools International	1
Weekly Reader	1
Bible Curriculum	1
Math-It	1
Penmanship- A Reason for Writing	1
Our Lady of the Rosary	2
Health for the Glory of God	1
McGuffey Readers	1
Silver Burdette Math	1
To Grow By Story Book Readers	1
Portland State University Italic Handwriting	1
Readywriter Stylus Skills	1
Houghton Mifflin	1
Pathway	1
Pay's Arithmetics	1
Spencerian Penmanship	1
Moore - McGuffey Readers	1
Winston Grammar	3
Victory Drill Books	1

It is interesting to note that while 23 curricula were printed as choices on the questionnaire, 54 additional curricula and workbooks were listed as being used by home-schoolers. 31% chose not to use prepared curricula for instruction. (See Table 4)

Table 4. -- Use of a Prepared Curriculum In Home-Schooling

	N	%
Prepared Curriculum	111	78
No Prepared Curriculum	31	22
Total	142	100

These respondents listed some of the other materials they frequently use instead of prepared curricula.

library books 18
workbooks 10
games 7
manipulatives 6
(cuisenaire rods, pattern blocks, unifix cubes)
dictionaries and encyclopedias 5
Bible 5
newsletters 4
(KidsArt and God's World)
outside instruction 3
(music, languages, swimming)
records and cassette tapes 3
newspaper 2
home surroundings 2
field trips 2
magazines 2
art and crafts 2
magnets 2
science experiments 2
magnifying glasses 1
television 1
computer programs 1
youth groups (4-H, Boy Scouts) 1

Responses for question 7 were especially surprising. 99% of the respondents reported using public libraries for additional resources or information. Only one (1%) respondent did not use public libraries.

Table 5. -- Public Libraries Used as Additional Sources

	N	%
Yes	138	99
No	1	1
Total	139	100

For question 8, "Generally, how often do you and/or your home-schooled child/children visit public libraries?", 13% indicated they used public libraries several times per week, 41% used libraries once per week, 61% used libraries several times per month. Only 6 respondents used the library several times per year or less.

Table 6. -- Frequency In Using Public Libraries

	N	%
Every Day	0	0
Several Times Per Week	13	9
Once Per Week	41	30
Several Times Per Month	61	43
Once Per Month	18	13
Several Times Per Year	5	4
Other	1	1
Total =	139	100

Responses for question 9, "What services do you and/or your home-schooled child/children use at the public library?", were varied. A Likert scale using Often, Some, Rarely, Never and Does Not Apply as choices for responses was used. Books were reported as being overwhelmingly used Often (93%) while Magazines tallied as Some (37%) or Rarely (29%). Computer usage was reported as Rarely (22%), Never (26%) and Does Not Apply (28%). Meeting Rooms were listed as Never (37%) being used or as Does Not Apply (32%). Consulting with Librarians was reported as Often (22%) and Some (47%). Video and Audio Tapes were used Often (27%) and Some (49%). Reference Books were reported as being used often (25%) and Some (41%). Programming for Children had a wide variety of responses, Often (19%), Some (30%), Rarely (17%) and Never (27%). Programming for Adults was reported as Never (57%) and Does Not Apply (22%). (See Table 7) (See also Figures 1 - 9)

Table 7 -- Services Used at the Public Library By Home Schoolers

Type of Service	Often %	Some %	Rarely %	Never %	N/A %
Books	93 (128)	4 (6)	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (2)
Magazines	9 (12)	37 (51)	29 (40)	12 (17)	13 (18)
Computers	7 (10)	17 (24)	22 (30)	26 (36)	28 (38)
Meeting Rooms	1 (2)	12 (16)	18 (25)	37 (51)	32 (44)
Consult with Librarians	22 (31)	47 (65)	17 (23)	4 (5)	10 (14)
Video/Audio Tapes	27 (37)	49 (67)	14 (20)	5 (7)	5 (7)
Reference Books	25 (35)	41 (56)	14 (19)	3 (4)	17 (24)
Programming for Children	19 (26)	30 (42)	17 (24)	27 (37)	7 (9)
Programming for Adults	1 (2)	5 (7)	15 (21)	57 (78)	22 (30)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses are base Ns for the adjacent percentages.
Total N = 138

FIGURE 1.

Library Services - Books

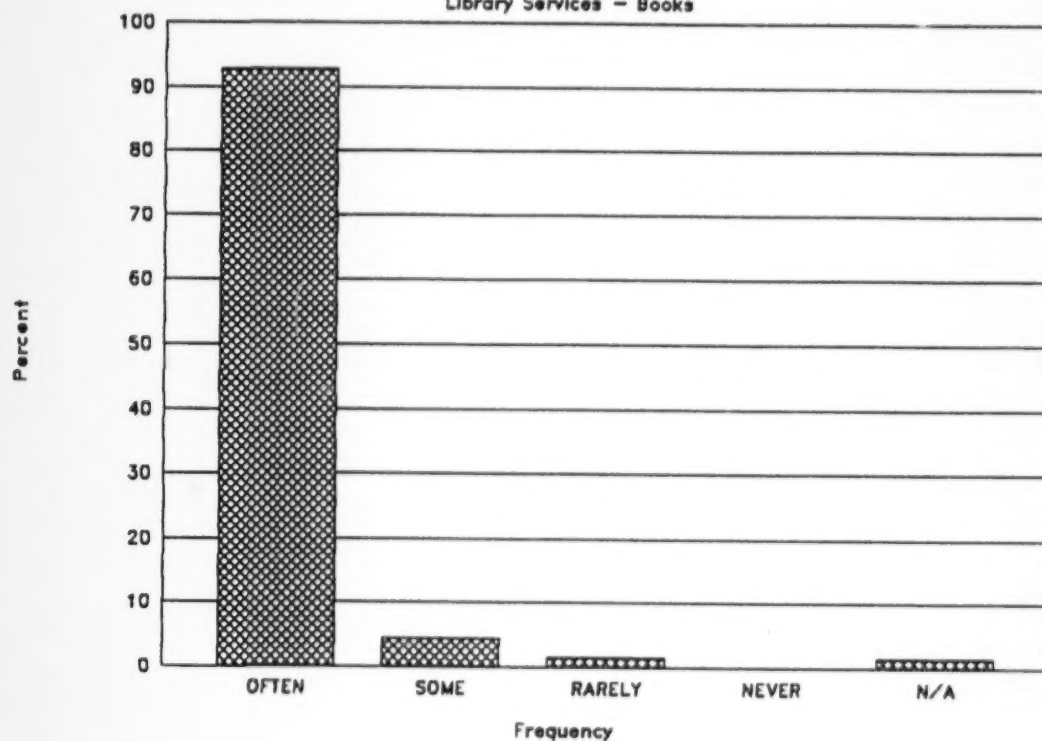


FIGURE 2.

Library Services - Magazines

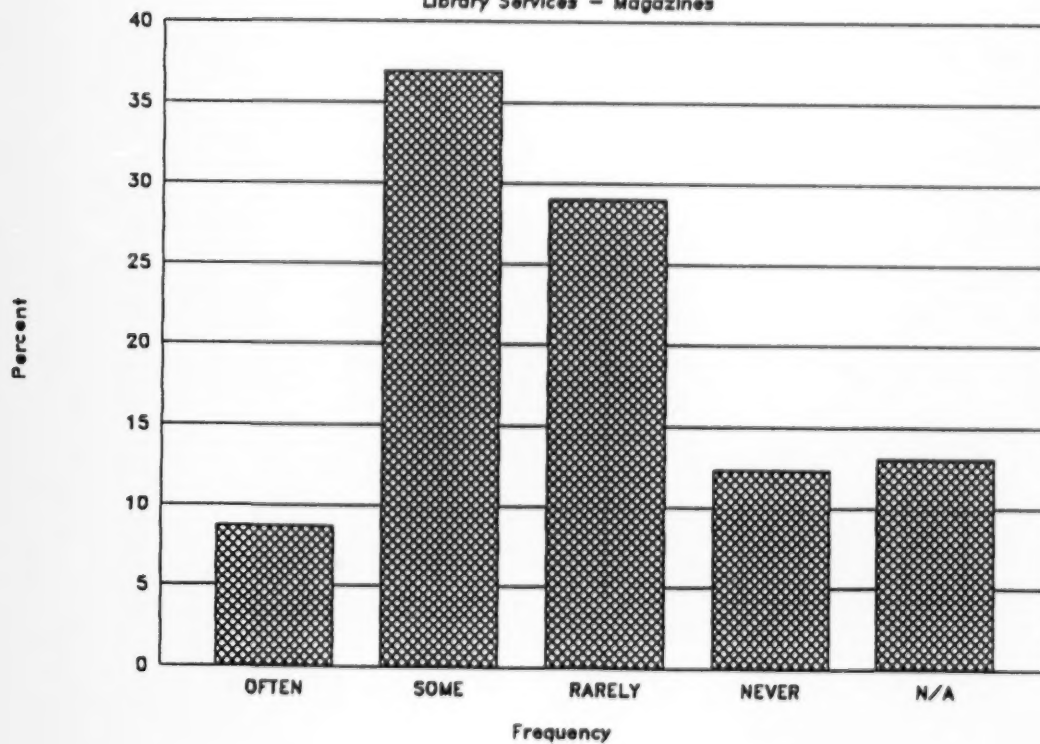


FIGURE 3.

Library Services - Computers

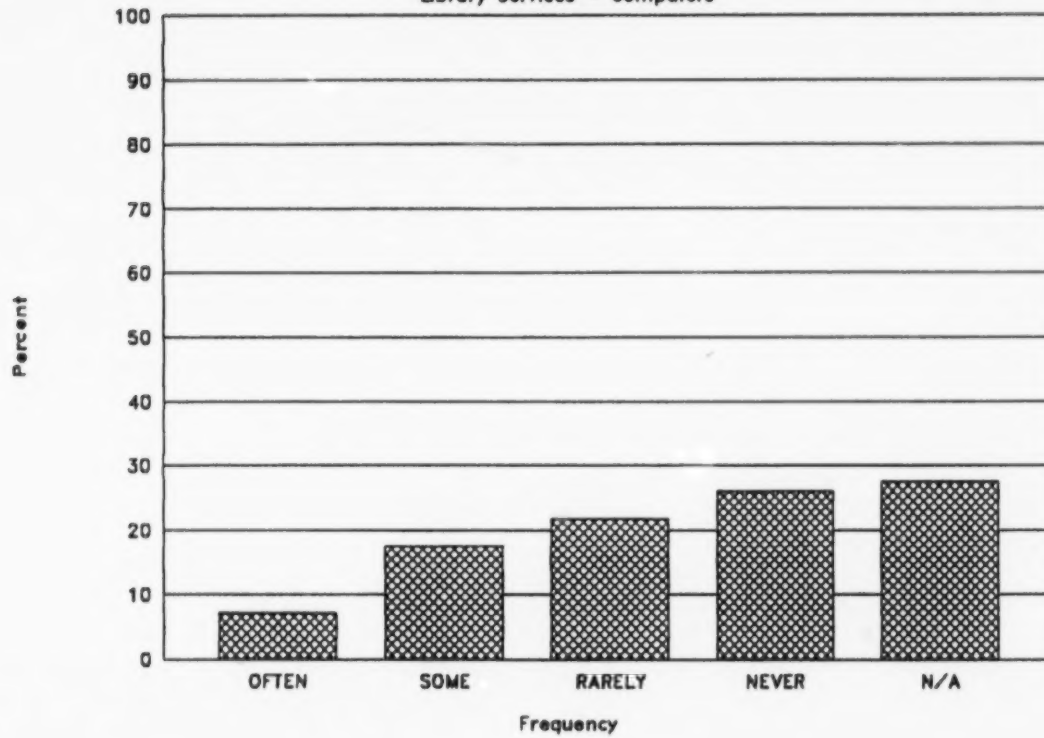


FIGURE 4.

Library Services - Meeting Rooms

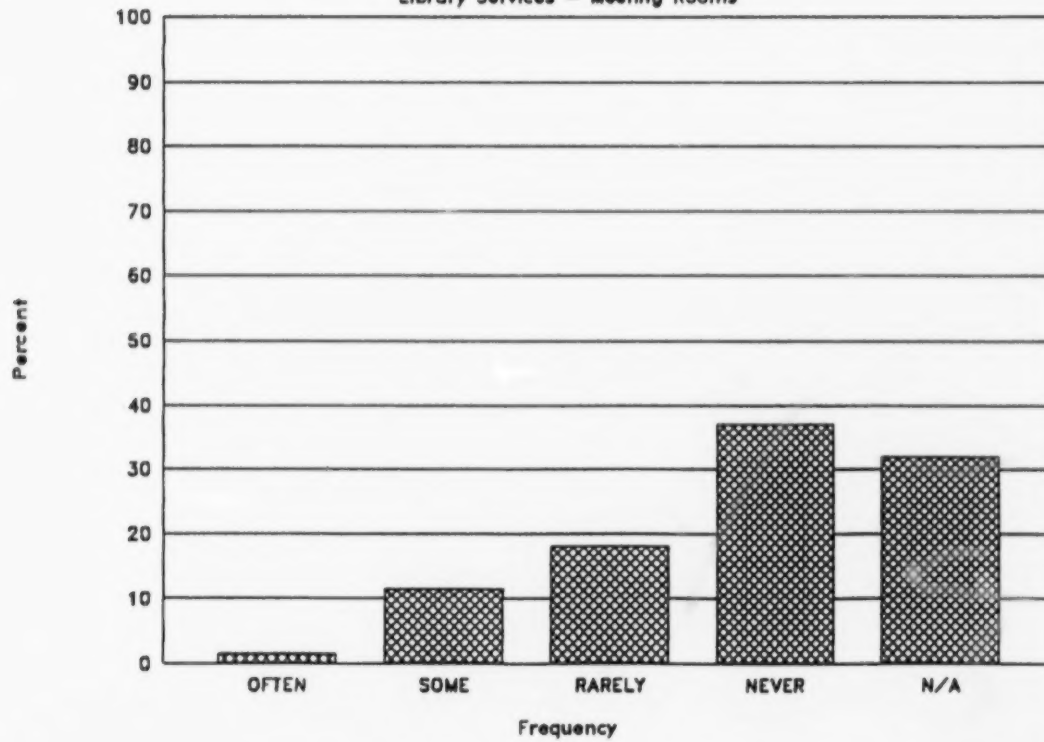


FIGURE 5.

Library Services - Librarians

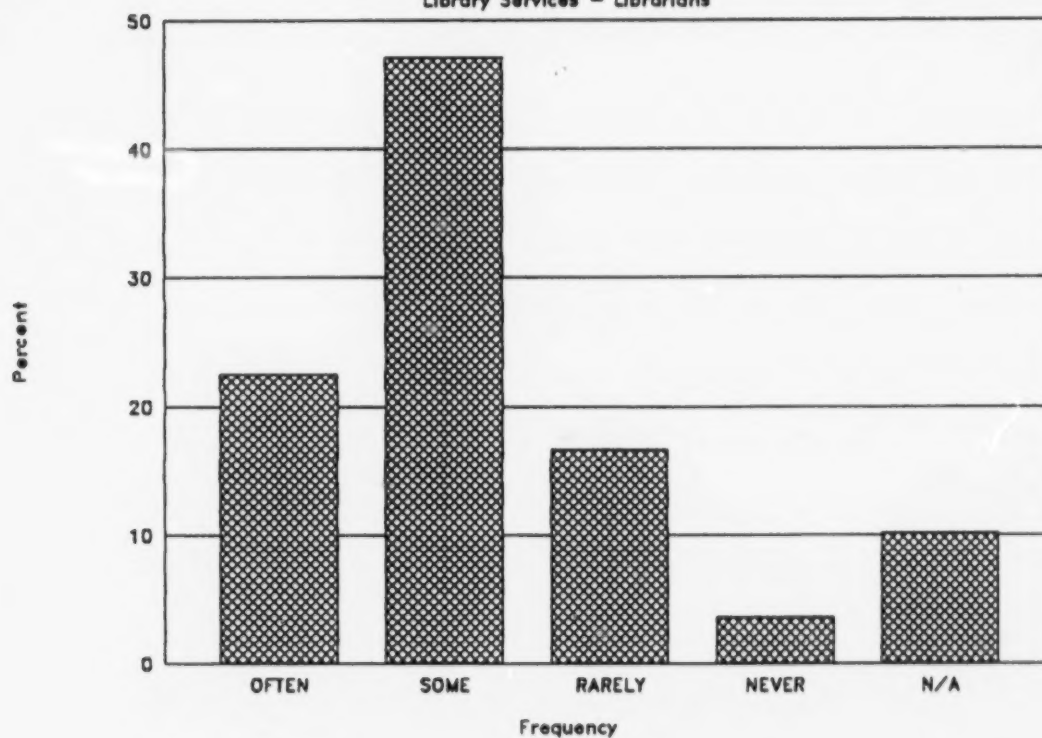


FIGURE 6.

Library Services - Video/Audio Tapes

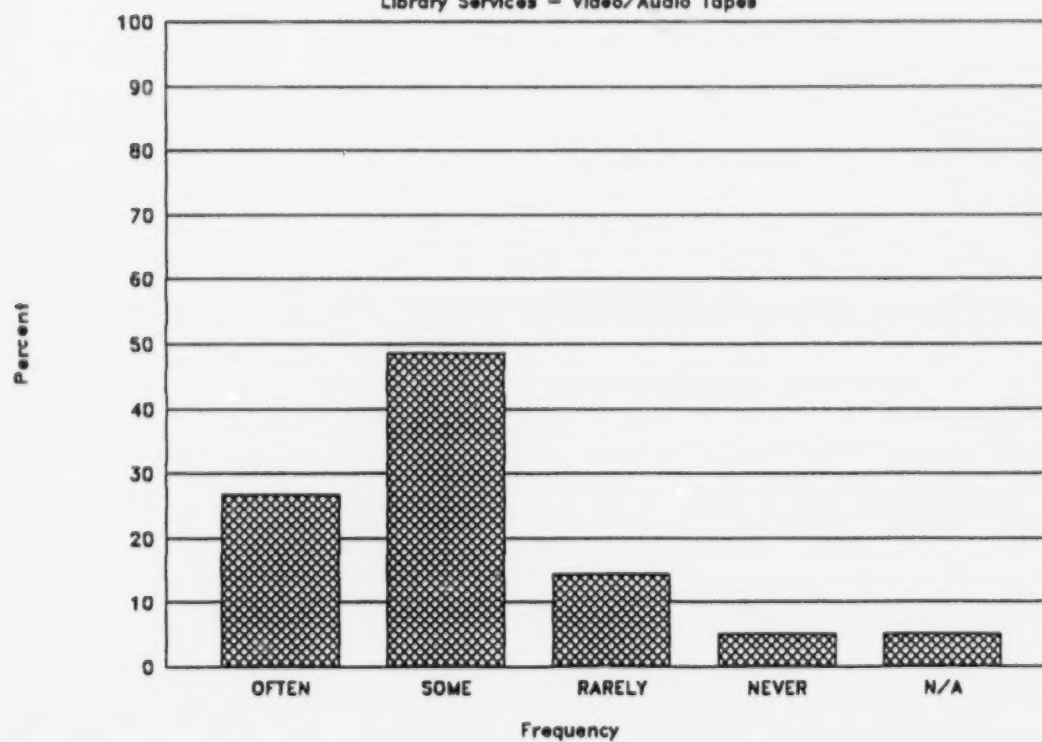


FIGURE 7.

Library Services - Reference Books

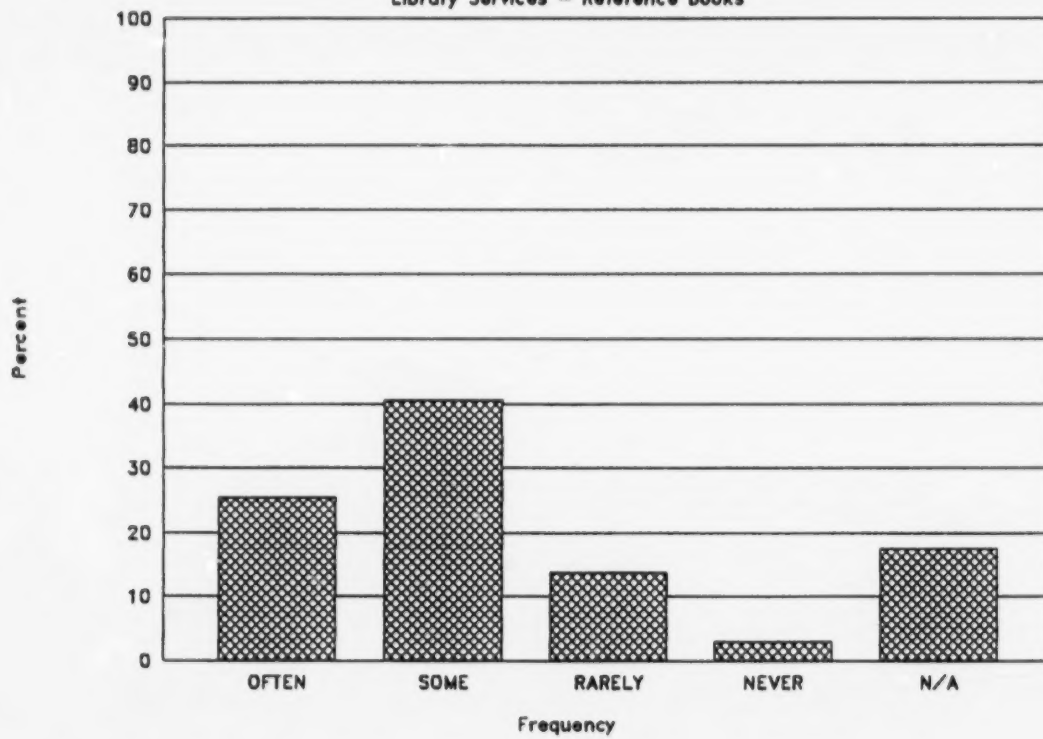


FIGURE 8.

Library Services - Prgm For Children

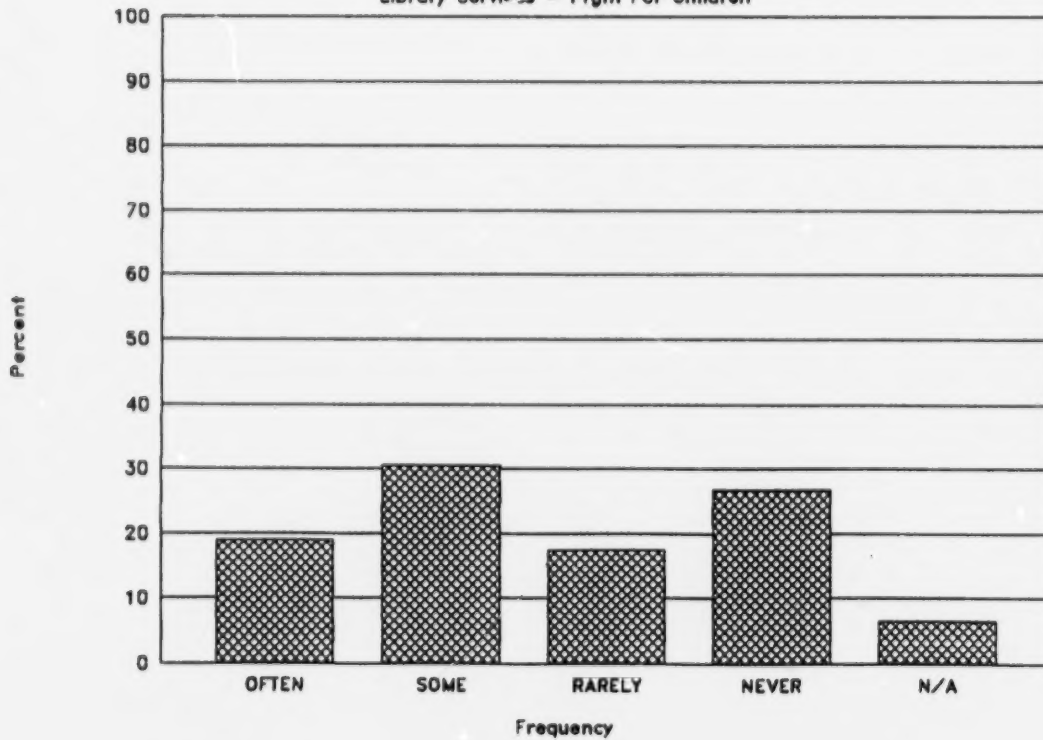
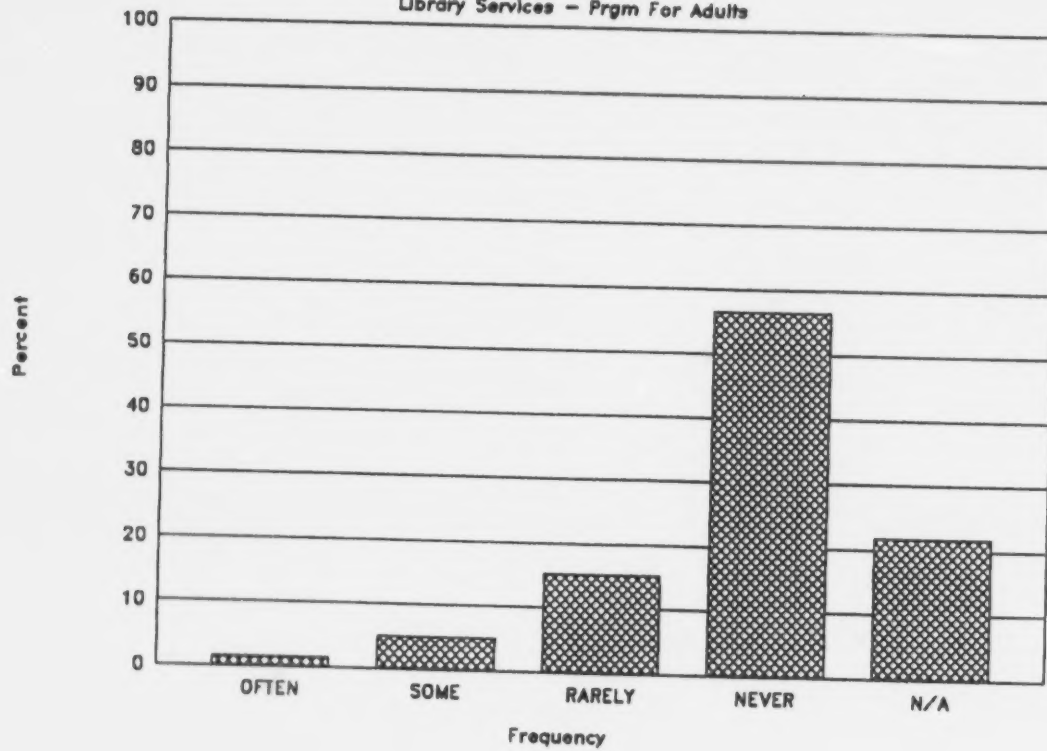


FIGURE 9.

Library Services - Prgm For Adults



Question 10, "If there are other services not mentioned that you and/or your child/children use at the public library, please list them.", produced 37 responses listed below. The responses were grouped into categories for purposes of reporting.

- educational games and toys 5
- interlibrary loan 5
- teacher collections 4
- films, filmstrips and projectors 4
- tapes, records and compact discs 4
- home-school support group meetings 4
- librarian led activities 3
- (library orientations, book talks, etc.)
- concerts 2
- book sales 2
- map resources 1
- art displays or collections 1
- bookmobile 1
- copy machine 1

Question 11, "Specifically, why don't you and/or your home-schooled children use public libraries?", received more than the one expected response from an earlier question (question 7). Other respondents chose to also answer this question. Their responses were included in the listing below. The responses were included to help give an indication of some reasons why other home-schoolers not included in this survey may not use public libraries.

Too many books with humanistic values and not very many Godly materials. When my child is older we would have more use of "resource" materials.

We have lived here only two years and because we have an extensive personal library (We lived in Australia for 9

years and had to get many books from the US), we don't need many of the library's services. WE do not have a TV so we have no use for videos.

Because of the type of curriculum I used last year for kindergarten I had to use the public library. I was appalled to find that, in my estimation, 40% of all easy reading type books were about witches, ghosts, monsters, etc. I had to time and time again tell my small children that they could not check out certain books, because the books contained many things that were not glorifying to God. Only because of the many, many excellent books available, do we continue to visit the public library. We will make sure we exactly what we're going for, and we make our selections that way. TOO MUCH DISGUSTING EVIL HAS CREPT INTO OUR CHILDRENS' READING!

We used to use the library all the time but in the last 5 years particularly I have noticed an explosive trend in all their material toward New Age and Humanistic philosophies. At the same time they are ridding themselves of the "classics" and any and all material that has any leanings at all toward Judeo-Christian values. Even the stuff that isn't decidedly "anti" Christian is violent, surly, disrespectful of (any) authority, anti American or deals with death. So much of it is so depressing. The reference section is the last "safe" place left and even that is beginning to get a good sprinkling of humanistic biographies degrading people who have been important to mankind. I'm finding I can no longer just "go" to the library and find good books for the family. Have you seen certain sections of the "new" Nancy Drew? 10 year olds don't need to know what "Ned" is imagining about Nancy! What a disappointment-- I LOVED the original Carolyn Keene's when I was ten! We are purchasing more and more literature from Christian publishers (it gets expensive!). It must be a common problem because they're selling a lot of material (the demand is there) to people who really can't "afford" it.

The librarians at the nearest library to me are unfriendly and unwilling to help. I have 2 children, 3 and 5, and it is sometimes hard to control the younger one.

Question 12, "Do you and/or your home-schooled child/children use any other types of libraries other than public libraries?", had 21 different types of libraries listed as responses.

- home library 7
- Christian library 1
- church library 23
- Christian video library 1
- book clubs 1
- museum library 1
- teachers resource center (public school system) 1
- university or college library 10
- Kent State University films 1
- COBCS Resource room 1
- home school support group library 6
- informal lending with friends and/or family 2
- La Leche League parenting resources 1
- Christian school library 6
- Child and Infant Stimulation Toy lending library 1
- private libraries of professors or professionals 1
- seminary library 1
- grandparents "library" 1
- bookmobile 1
- law library 1
- Air Force Base library 1

Question 13, "What services would you like to see public libraries offer or provide to home-schoolers?", provided the greatest number of responses of all the open ended questions (numbers 10, 11, 12 and 13.) Over 105 respondents chose to write comments for question 13. One common theme among these answers was the desire to be accorded teacher status from librarians. Included in the teacher status was the right to check out large numbers of books for longer periods of time. Another theme was the request for more religious, specifical-

ly, Christian materials or materials reflecting Christian values. Still another theme was the desire for more information, including books, about home-schooling and related curricula. A fourth theme was the request for more help from librarians. Within this theme, four specific points mentioned were 1) more help from librarians when choosing books, 2) better orientations to libraries and series, 3) improved attitudes from librarians toward home-schoolers and 4) specific help for home-schoolers and support groups on various topics. A fifth theme was the need for more computer equipment and software. Respondents also requested instruction in the use of computers.

A better attitude toward home-schoolers and our values.

The libraries we have do not stock "home-school" type of information. It would be helpful if they stocked a section just for this purpose.

Our library is small. I don't like to go to a further library to get what I need. I would like our smaller library to offer more variety in audio and VCR tapes. We have nothing in the area of listening to music.

More libraries with computers, easier way to find materials and more children's books.

A listing of books by curriculum (science, social studies) by grade for outside reading and research.

More books on cassette tapes (unabridged) are needed by Janette Oke, John Bunyan, Moody Broadcasting children's cassettes, and Moody Bible Institute.

More information to the (home-school) parent, such as curriculum planning, beginning/set-up testing info., video tapes, maybe even a section for home-schools.

Books on home school, or else books that have stories about home-schooled children. There are quite a few books about children, that talk about going to public school, but nothing about children that are home-schooled.

Resource books that home-schoolers can check out and take home.

A seminar geared to teaching children how to use all of the services the library has to offer, what age or grade level. I am not sure.

Teaching on computers.

Computer use, "Teacher" privileges (unlimited number of books, etc.) Actually our public library does a GREAT job, and the personnel is very cooperative!

Provide more Christian videos.

Order books that home-schooling parents could read to help them with teaching tips, creative ideas, how to get started in home-schooling, what books the library has (a list of books) that would be of special interest to home-schooling parents and children of all ages.

Make available more books on home-schooling, conservative issues for browsing.

The summer reading is nice but I don't know of a program for the older Home School child during the year. They have Preschool story hour.

Reference section on the subject of home-education:

Workshops - sessions for school age children, book talks, reviews, etc.

Special ways to checkout for using large

amounts of books! Books with home schooling in mind - not public school related.

Educational computer programs to use at home.

More information or self helps about home schooling.

More God related books, audio and video tapes. Specific home-schooling materials.

Computers for other than periodicals, "Open House" sorts of tours.

Names of home schooling curriculum providers should be cataloged such as A Beka, KONOS, etc. I asked for A Beka in Columbus' Public Library and KONOS. The librarian wanted to know what the acronym stood for.

Seminars or workshops during a day on "How to use the Library."

More Christian books and Home-school curricula.

More reference books converted to regular lending books--less videos and "extras". Have more emphasis on reading than other activities.

I'd like to see a display at the library on home education as an option with if possible a home educator there to answer questions.

Suggested reading lists for various grade levels. Current Christian best sellers, Study guides for novels, Newbery's, etc.

Keep "old" classics (or just plain good books). Do not replace with humanistic, Provide suggested reading list, current Christian best sellers.

I'm very happy with all their services and help and respect we receive at our libraries. (The best is teacher's loan where we keep books out twice as long as usual.)

Books on home schooling, more books by Shining Star (division of Good Apple), more educational videos especially in the area of Science and Language, more Christian books and videos (Charismatic).

I would like the libraries to provide a list of their P-G books - that is to say books which Christians would not feel offended in reading. Also they need a larger variety of these books. Also... It would be nice if we could check out the books for a longer amount of time. Also, for us to be able to check out educational videos for 3-4 days instead of 1 day.

Computers with educational software for math, reading, science, history.

Apple or Mac Computers and various learning software.

More Christian videos.

I would like to see more Christian/moral children's books in our library (Worthington Library). Right now the library only has a small section for these books. I would also like to know if it is o.k. with the library to use the librarians help the same as she/he would help a Public School teacher.

I would like to see more copies of home schooling books; some books on the Calvert reading list have been borrowed through the Columbus Public Library's interloan library.

Classes or workshops on how to use card-catalog, etc.

Workshops for children who are home-schooled.

I would like to see some of their programs offered during the day. I would also like a program on how to use the library (computers, etc.) for the children.

More resource books on the subject of home schooling. Such as Mary Pride, Dr. Raymond Moore, Greg Harris.

I would like to note that since I have been home schooling I have used the library much more than before and I am thankful for what it has to offer.

Longer loaning periods for unit study preparation and use.

More home school information books. More Christian books and videos.

Not enough Christian material. I don't wish to spend time sorting through Humanistic, New Age and Occultic books.

I heard someone speak on how their library put together unit studies in a carrier. I would love that.

We would like Science books based on creation not evolution. More children's books (age 5 - 8) about our heritage, great men and women. More factual books.

Well, I would like to see more Christian based novels and books. Also, I'd like to see more unabridged books (Robinson Crusoe, etc.)

I am unaware of any adult programming at our library. I would be interested in that. A mailing list of activities would be a help also.

Library orientation geared specifically to home-school children as a group. I feel it would be an imposition to ask a librarian to spend that kind of time on just one child.

More books and materials (including curriculum and curriculum guides) specifically for home schoolers.

Pleasant help!

Our library and the services have been very good. Probably the only service I would like to see would be coordinated videos that would be short history views of various time periods. It's difficult for children to relate to historical times without seeing what it was really like.

I would like to see more audio tapes with read along books and more video tapes for kids -- not cartoons but plays or classics.

Computers in library for public use and math manipulatives.

Computer accessibility. Math manipulatives.

Possibly have a meeting with the local home-schoolers and just discuss what's available. See what the needs of the homeschoolers are and be serviceable, wanting to help.

More computers and software - (software that can be checked out). More books from curriculum publishers - such as Good Apple, etc. - not textbooks but "helps" (classroom helps).

More how to books (How to Learn Spanish) (How to play an Instrument), etc. More textbooks that the schools use, with grade levels marked. More books with a Christian basis. Computer programs to borrow and take home.

Carry home school curriculum. Daytime programs for homeschoolers and siblings. Information program on library resources.

I can't think of anything. Our library is willing to be as helpful as possible.

Call library personnel, tell them about a subject you are studying, they would gather the books about that subject, then you could go pick it up.

The Stow Public library has been tremendous! I call with topics, they find helpful books and check them out for me. I just pick them up. I find that very helpful and haven't really thought about what else could be offered. They have videos, computer, tapes, flash cards, science corner. We love it!

More Christian - family oriented books and classical music tapes.

More books on the shelves about home education.

More classes for preschool and adding classes for school age children during year. Classes on art, history, literature, etc.

Provide teacher totes in more libraries throughout the state. Toy lending library.

Lab use for a fee or family membership. Different types of labs or alternating labs, i.e. Science, Photography, etc.

To make available books, materials, curriculum, etc. written from a Christian perspective. Meeting area for co-op teaching, group activities, etc.

Teacher pass - longer time with books. Official recognition and acceptance of educational function and legitimacy of home schooling.

I would like to have more educational videos in our library.

Extended loans (ours does this), book searches, video searches, lists of recommended resources on given subjects.

Records and tapes, especially for music instruction and appreciation.

Books, materials, references, pertaining specifically to Christian Home-schooling -- Resource guides for Home-schooling.

Small rooms where we could watch library

or our own videos, we do not own a TV or VCR by choice. Would like to see them carry periodicals on home education as well as current books on same.

Christian or God-oriented books.

"New True Books" or "Rookie Biographies" etc. are shelved by author and takes a lot of work to find. I wish they kept a second set all together by the early readers. I really enjoy our library and our librarians are very helpful and receptive! (Lucas County -- Heatherdowns branch).

I would like to see libraries add lending services for educational games. This is a practical goal and a desire of my heart.

Teacher passes and less conflict if we want more than 20 books. More books for young readers.

We have a wonderful library in Mason and they far exceed any of my expectations both in service and activities.

Teacher status! To have the privileges offered to certified teachers.

Godly Books -- not just secular or "popular" "religious" books.

I honestly have no complaints or suggestions for the libraries in our area (Montgomery County) except that the Huber Heights branch is not "child friendly."

More Christian authors; creation science books (Do you know that evolution is still a theory?)

I'd like to see more Christian books and videos.

More Christian based reading, reading materials on the beginners level. Unit studies, possible field trip ideas, possible places where home-schoolers could meet each other or meet for special programs.

Classes for children on how to use reference materials.

Texts and assessment or testing that is required by the state.

Tours, planned units, computer instruction, literature roundtable discussion (older children, adults). Many more educational and How-to videos!!

Materials focusing on parental involvement in children's education and character development.

Have an extended due date for educational materials and books and use of resources allowed to other teachers at public or private schools.

Carry all books on Home Schooling, ie Moores, G. Harris, Diana Lopez, Cathy Duffy, etc. Also carry more Christian literature and biographies and tapes.

Courses on library use.

I would like to be taught more specifically how to use all the many services of the library. I think a lot of times the librarian feels too busy to explain in depth certain areas which makes a lot of people reluctant to ask for assistance at all.

More Christian books and tapes available; microscopes offered; more phonetic easy reader books.

More teacher helps.

More books for parents on home schooling, more structured tour of library for any interested adult.

A reading time for children past pre-school age.

Use of a VCR at our local library and a television there for occasional use. I'd like to be able to feel the books avail-

able were all of high moral quality there instead of having to check everyone we bring home since the system is trying to serve the "whole" community, as I have been told.

I don't know what all the services there are available to us. We plan to tour the library soon, since I have learned about the wide variety of services available at other libraries.

1. A Home-schooling advisor who is familiar with books to save us time in searching for "good" material. 2. Computers to use in compositions and papers. 3. Video players for in library use to preview tapes or just see sections of a tape. 4. Library sponsored classes on particular topics. 5. "Literary clubs" for high school age children for speaking and social skill development.

Willingness to help find titles and/or substitute titles.

SUMMARY

This exploratory survey of Ohio home-school parents was conducted to determine the extent to which home-school children and their parents use public library resources. It is important to remember that due to the record keeping methods of the Ohio Department of Education, it is impossible to identify specific members of this population. Not all home-schoolers belong to identifiable resource and support groups such as the Christian Home Educators of Ohio. It is, therefore, impossible to identify and survey each home-school parent in the state of Ohio. This research project was intended to be solely an exploratory survey in an attempt to begin to identify some of the library and information needs of this unique section of the total library population. It is clear from the responses to the questionnaire by the attendees of the Christian Home Educators of Ohio convention that home-schoolers do use public and other libraries extensively. It would behoove all librarians, especially public librarians, to try to become better aware of the needs of all unique populations, such as home-schoolers, in their communities.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 -- Questionnaire Cover Letter

Appendix 2 -- Questionnaire

(APPENDIX 1)

Dear Parents of Home-Schooled children,

I am conducting a study on home-schooled children and their parents and their use of public libraries as a resource for home-schooling instruction. I would greatly appreciate your response to the following questionnaire items. The information collected from this questionnaire will be used in a Master's research paper on home-schoolers and their use of public libraries for the School of Library Science at Kent State University. All responses will be confidential.

After completing this questionnaire, please return it to the table marked "Home-Schoolers and Their Use of Public Libraries Survey". The table is located near the registration area. If you do not wish to complete the questionnaire during the conference, please feel free to mail it to my home. I will be happy to provide you with an addressed envelope.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Robin Schwartz
431 Loveman Avenue
Worthington, OH 43085

HOME-SCHOOLERS AND THEIR USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES SURVEY

June 22 - 23, 1991

The information collected in this survey will be used in a Master's research paper on home-schoolers and their use of public libraries as a resource for home-schooling instruction. All responses will be confidential.

Please CIRCLE the correct response. Circle only one response for each question.

1. You are 1) male 2) female.
2. You are 1) a parent of home-schooled child/children
 2) other (Please specify_____)

IF YOU CIRCLED 2) OTHER, PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 13.

3. How many of your children are home-schooled?
 - 1) 1
 - 2) 2
 - 3) 3
 - 4) 4-5
 - 5) more than 5

4. When teaching your home-schoolers, do you use a prepared curriculum? 1) yes 2) no

IF YOU CIRCLED 2) NO, PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 6.

IF YOU CIRCLED 1) YES, PLEASE GO ON TO THE NEXT QUESTION, QUESTION 5.

5. Which of the following prepared curricula do you use?
CIRCLE as many as you actually use.

- 1) A Beka Correspondence School
- 2) A Beka Video School
- 3) Advanced Training Institute
- 4) American Christian Academy
- 5) American School
- 6) Associated Christian Schools
- 7) Calvert School
- 8) Christian Liberty Academy
- 9) Clonlara
- 10) Hewitt-Moore Child Development Center
- 11) Home Study International
- 12) International Institute
- 13) Living Heritage Academy
- 14) North Dakota Independent Study
- 15) Oak Meadow School
- 16) Our Lady of Victory
- 17) Quest Academy
- 18) Seton Home Study School
- 19) Summit Christian Academy
- 20) Sycamore Tree
- 21) University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 22) Konos
- 23) Other (Please specify _____

_____)

PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 7.

6. If you do not use a prepared curriculum when teaching your home-schooler, what do you use instead?

(Please use the back of this page if you need additional space for your answer.)

Please CIRCLE the correct response.

7. Do you and your home-schooled child/children use public libraries for additional resources or information?

- 1) yes 2) no

IF YOU ANSWERED 1) YES, PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 8.

IF YOU ANSWERED 2) NO, PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 11.

8. Generally, how often do you and/or your home-schooled child/children visit public libraries? Choose only one answer, please.

- 1) every day
2) several times per week
3) once a week
4) several times a month
5) once a month
6) several times per year
7) other (Please specify _____)

9. What services do you and/or your home-schooled child/children use at the public library?

	Often	Some	Rarely	Never	Does Not Apply
a) books	5	4	3	2	1
b) magazines	5	4	3	2	1
c) computers	5	4	3	2	1
d) meeting rooms	5	4	3	2	1
e) consult with librarian/s	5	4	3	2	1
f) video or audio tapes	5	4	3	2	1
g) reference books and materials	5	4	3	2	1
h) programming for children (example: story time, summer reading programs, puppet shows, craft clubs, etc.)	5	4	3	2	1
i) programming for adults (example: workshops, roundtables, discussion groups, etc.)	5	4	3	2	1

10. If there are other services not mentioned that you and/or your child/children use at the public library, please list them.

PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 12.

11. Specifically, why don't you and/or your home-schooled child/children use public libraries?

12. Do you and/or your home-schooled child/children use any other types of libraries other than public libraries?

13. What services would you like to see public libraries offer or provide to home-schoolers? (If your answer will not fit in the space provided below, please continue on to the back of this sheet.)

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE! PLEASE RETURN IT TO THE TABLE MARKED "HOME-SCHOOLERS AND THEIR USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES SURVEY" NEAR THE REGISTRATION AREA.

ENDNOTES

¹Jane Avner, "Home Schoolers: A Forgotten Clientele?" School Library Journal (July 1989), 29.

²Joe Feuerherd, "Disillusioned Parents Teach At Home." National Catholic Reporter (March 16, 1990), 3.

³Patricia Lines, "An Overview of Home Instruction." Phi Delta Kappan (March 1987), 510.

⁴Jane Avner, "Home Schoolers: A Forgotten Clientele?" School Library Journal (July 1989), 29.

⁵Ibid., 33.

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

Avner, Jane A. "Home Schoolers: A Forgotten Clientele?"
School Library Journal (July 1989): 29-33.

Feuerherd, Joe. "Disillusioned Parents Teach At Home."
National Catholic Reporter (March 15, 1990): 3-4.

Lines, Patricia M. "An Overview of Home Instruction."
Phi Delta Kappan (March 1987): 510-517.